Receipt date: 03/22/2004 10805714 - GAU: 3773

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Suyker, et al.

Group Art Unit:

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

Not Yet Assigned

Examiner:

Filing Date: Filed Herewith

: Not Yet Assigned

Attorney Docket No.:

For: Mechanical Anastomosis System for Hollow

Structures

: DVME-03USDIV4

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97((b)(1)

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and 1.97(b)(1), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached Substitute Form PTO 1449. As this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the issuance of the first Office Action, no fee is due for this submission.

However, if any fee is due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0462. Moreover, please credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0462.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R.§1.8

I certify that this document, along with any document referred to as being attached, is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. §1.8 and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Name of Person Signing Correspondence

Correspondence

The references cited on the attached Substitute PTO 1449 were previously cited in U.S. Patent Application No. 10/162,261, which is a parent of the present application. Copies of the patent references can be found in that parent application. For the Examiner's convenience, copies of the non-patent references are attached.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached Substitute PTO 1449 form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art". If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claims in the application and Applicants determined that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Patent Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents. Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 3/12/2004

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